

Annex 11

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

For the GCF-FAO Programme “Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa’s Great Green Wall” (SURAGGWA)

Monitoring				
Data/Source/Reporting Method	Collection Tool	Frequency of Reporting	Indicator	Indicative Budget USD
IRMF core indicators 1-4, quantitative indicators				
Ex-Ante Carbon balance Tool (EX-ACT)	GIS data	Baseline/Inception Assessment Annual Interim and Final	<u>Core 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered.</u>	3,035,750 (M&E systems set-up and regular functioning)
Soil Carbon Analysis	CDM verification	Baseline Annual		+
Annual Performance reports, quarterly q monitoring	Survey/question naire	Annual Performance Reports	<u>Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached</u>	4, 286, 500 (Regular field level data collection, including baseline, and will contribute to biennial outcome surveys as well)
Annual Performance reports and quarterly monitoring and beneficiary registration forms Biennial Outcome Survey	Survey/question naire	Biennial	<u>Supplementary 2.1: Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options</u>	+
Annual Performance Reports and quarterly monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey	Survey/question naire	Biennial	<u>Supplementary 2.5: Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting innovations that strengthen climate change resilience</u>	529, 000 (quarterly monitoring missions) +
Earthmap, AfricaOpen Deal, Physical Observation integrated into Annual Performance reporting	GIS Data	Annual	<u>Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practices</u>	199,000 (biennial outcome surveys) + 412,500 (soil carbon analysis)
GCF Outcome level: Enabling environment (IRMF core indicators 5-8 as applicable)				
Data/Source	Collection Tool	Frequency of Reporting	Indicator	Indicative Budget USD

Technical Reports under Outcome 2				
Biennial Outcome Survey	Focus groups	Biennial	<u>Core indicator 7: Degree to which GCF Investments contribute to market development/transfer of information at the sectoral, local, or national level</u>	N/A (reporting from technical specialists under Component 2)
Annual Performance Reports	Government data/records	Biennial	<u>Core Indicator 6: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to technology deployment, dissemination, development or transfer and innovation</u>	N/A (reporting from technical specialists under Component 2)
Annual Performance Reports	Government data/records	Biennial	<u>Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development pathways in a country-driven manner</u>	N/A (reporting from technical specialists under Component 2)
Data/Source/Reporting method	Collection Tool	Frequency of Reporting	Indicator	Indicative Budget USD
Expected Results				
Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction)	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	1.1.1 Number of community restoration management committees trained and knowledgeable in restoration practices (disaggregated by % women participation, % youth participation. % women in management position, % youth in management position)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
Annual performance Reports				Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Survey				
Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction)	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	1.2.1 Number of community groups actively collecting, storing and disseminating native restoration species.	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
Annual Performance Reports				Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Survey				
Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction)	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	1.2.2 Share of women participating in seed supply systems/networks	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
Annual Performance Reports				Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Survey				
Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction – georeferenced)	GIS data	Annual	1.3.1 No. hectares of highly degraded land restored and/or under restoration	Regular field level data collection and monitoring

restoration sites; remote-sensing, drone data)				Biennial Outcome Survey
Annual Performance Reports				
Biennial Outcome Survey				
Quarterly activity monitoring reports	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	1.3.1.a Share of women that have noticed time savings as a result of land preparation/restoration practices	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
Annual Performance Reports				Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Survey				
Remote-sensing data	GIS data	Interim and Final	1.3.2 Percent Increase in regreening, NDVI ¹ and vegetation cover in restored areas	NA (national and regional M&E and ecological monitoring specialist technical inputs)
Land quality assessments				
KoboToolBox data extraction	GIS data	Annual	1.4.1 No. of ha of moderately degraded lands restored (ie. Ploughed and sowed)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
Remote-sensing/drone technologies				Biennial Outcome Survey
Quarterly activity monitoring (KoboToolBox data extraction)	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	1.4.1.a. Share of women that have noticed time savings as a result of land preparation/land restoration practices	Regular monitoring
				Biennial Outcome Survey
Remote-sensing data	GIS data	Interim and Final	1.4.2 Percent increase in NDVI and vegetation cover in restored areas	NA (national and regional M&E and ecological monitoring specialist technical inputs)
Land quality assessments				
KoboToolBox data extraction	Field observation visits	Annual	1.5.1 No. of local restoration technicians whose technical capacities have been strengthened for land restoration and monitoring (disaggregated by % women participation, % youth participation))	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
KAP surveys as part of Biennial Outcome Assessment				Biennial Outcome Survey
Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction – business plan execution of value chain organisations)	Document review	Annual	2.1.1 Number of people participating in trainings and coaching provided by the programme (disaggregated by type of training, gender, age)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
				Biennial Outcome Survey

¹ Investigation of NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) values in cropland and non-cropland areas within the GGW areas of Senegal and Chad, and with increase during 10-year period (2012-2022) shows that NDVI increase typically range from 10-20%. The calculation was done in EarthMap.org with Landsat data at 30m resolution. For context, NDVI is a reliable proxy for land restoration and productivity (Chen et al, 2021; Birtwistle et al, 2016; Ruijsch et al, 2022; Helman et al, 2014; Sun et al, 2011; Meroni et al, 2017).

Beneficiaries records, Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction – business plan execution)	Document review	Annual	2.2.1. Increase in real gross sales among programme beneficiaries in targeted NTFP value chains after implementation of programme activities (Percentage; disaggregated by women-led, youth-led, value chain)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Beneficiaries records, Quarterly activity monitoring reports (KoboToolBox data extraction – business plan execution)	Document review	Annual	2.2.2. Number of commercial purchase agreements signed.	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Quarterly activity monitoring reports	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	2.3.1 No. of financial products, tailored for agriculture or NTFP value chains, developed and made accessible to project beneficiaries (disaggregated by type of products/services: Credit, savings, digital credit, insurance)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Annual Performance Reports	Government data/records	Annual	3.1.1 Number of GGW agency and other ecological monitoring agency staff trained and using using the new monitoring and reporting system	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Annual Performance Reports Document review (new strategies, policies initiated through national coalitions) Biennial Outcome Assessment (to include KAP survey)	Document review	Annual	3.2.1. No. of GGW planning and coordination meetings undertaken as part of programme meetings undertaken.	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Quarterly activity monitoring reports	Survey/questionnaire	Annual	3.3.1 No. of knowledge exchange, and peer-to-peer events undertaken, informed by relevant knowledge products on carbon markets for climate change adaptation and mitigation funding knowledge exchange, and peer-to-peer events undertaken, informed by relevant knowledge products on climate change adaptation and mitigation funding	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey

Quarterly activity monitoring reports	Document review	Annual	3.4.1 No. of regional and national knowledge products and communications highlighting SURAGGWA results and lessons-learned (including GGW Umbrella Programme events, press, radio shows, workshops etc...)	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Assessment (included through KAP survey)	Focus Groups Key Informant Interviews	Biennial	3.4.1.a. Share of women involved in GGW knowledge management and communications development	Regular field level data collection and monitoring Biennial Outcome Survey
Quarterly activity monitoring reports	Survey/questionnaire Survey/questionnaire Other: GRM and ESMF	Annual	Co-benefit 1: The number of diverse communities able to resolve conflict through collaborative measures/mechanisms	Regular field level data collection and monitoring
			Co-benefit 2: Share of income from climate-resilient sources ²	Biennial Outcome Survey
Biennial Outcome Assessment	Survey/questionnaire Survey/questionnaire	Biennial	Co-benefit 3: Change in the food security experience scale (FIES methodology ³⁴)	Biennial Outcome Survey
Capacity Development events				66,000
Cost for data generation and collection not covered by AE fee				380,000
Analysts for impact assessment				150,000
Social safeguards/gender specialists				2,577,000
Total (USD)				11, 635, 750

AE Fee:

Type	Timing	Independent/Self-evaluation	Indicative Budget USD :
Formative (interim evaluation)	Year 5	Independent	222,575
Summative (final evaluation)	Year 10	Independent	269.990

² Studies show that the AAD approach has a statistically significant impact on the mix of income sources of households engaging in participatory land restoration activities, reducing reliance on the commercialization of agricultural crop products, which are vulnerable to climate variability and shocks, towards livestock-related production (through increased fodder production), and demonstrating an increase in income derived from the sales of NTFPs. Please refer to 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2024.108311 and <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.09.021>

³ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>: While the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) data is used as rationale for site selection, it would be a complex approach to track a smaller set of population. In this case, for simplicity of tracking the co-benefit indicator, we opted for the straightforward Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). FIES's eight questions will be integrated in the data collection app to track the severity of food insecurity over the course of the programme.

⁴ Evidence from previous AAD actions document that the percentage of households that declared to be worried for food availability dropped by 7%, 12% and 13 in Niger, Senegal, and Nigeria, respectively. the share of households that declared to eat less than they should also decreased in all the three countries covered by this study, of – 8% in Niger, – 31% in Senegal and – 9% in Nigeria; and the percentage of households that did not eat for a whole day dropped from 46% to 15% in Senegal and from 69% to 58% in Niger. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.09.021>

Brief Description of the SURAGGWA Monitoring and Evaluation System

Programme-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with GCF and FAO policies. FAO will ensure the existence of a well-designed, operational and effective results monitoring and measurement system to analyse and quantify the, the contribution and the overall results of the project. This will include the implementation of a SURAGGWA Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system to understand efficacy, targeting and verifying the assumptions that the program is making, as well as implementing a learning plan so elements emerging from the monitoring systems can feed back into the project implementation and planning Outcomes, through the set-up of a MEL Working Group, in collaboration with GEF-7 Program: Sustainable Forest Management Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme (DSL-IP)⁵. Additionally, the M&E system will support the knowledge management and learning plan, in close coordination with iGREENFIN, so that elements emerging from the monitoring system can be leveraged to inform iGREENFIN-supported knowledge management for the Great Green Wall Initiative.

A. Activities for Monitoring and Evaluation

Regional-level

At the regional level, a dedicated Regional Programme Management Unit (PMU) will include the Programme Coordinator, a dedicated Ecological Restoration and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, and component leads. Under the overall coordination of the M&E specialist, the PMU will be responsible for the design, roll-out and implementation of the SURAGGWA MEL plan and management information system, in close collaboration with the national M&E specialists in the Country Implementation Units (CIU) and M&E focal points from relevant partner agencies. Additionally, the PMU will be responsible for providing quality assurance for monitoring and PMUing processes and products; and contribute to the PMU preparation of consolidated reporting to GCF, as well as the Regional Steering Committee.

Quality assurance: The M&E Specialist PC=MU will be responsible for providing a **detailed M&E plan**, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.. at country-level) at inception, in collaboration with thematic specialists. This plan should also include the preparation of a methodology, including sampling strategy and data collection tools necessary for the **baseline assessment**, and to ensure that the data required to inform mid-term and final evaluations by OED are collected. Technical assistance will be provided by ESA and ESP during the routine M&E surveys to ensure quantitative data is available where possible to inform the Office of Evaluation's mid-term and final evaluation, in

⁵ The DSL-IP MEL working group is a space for exchange composed by child project, global coordination, and partner M&E specialists working under the DSL-IP. The MEL working group meets bimonthly to discuss M&E related issues, to perform capacity needs assessments, to share learning opportunities, capture best practices, and to inform adaptive management. Through the MEL working group, M&E specialists are trained on the use and upkeep of the DSL-IP participatory M&E Dashboard. The MEL working group hosts coffee meetings where its members are invited to share their work with the group. The SURAGGWA MEL working group will meet with the DSL-IP MEL working group on a regular basis, to be agreed upon at inception, in order to ensure synergies in land restoration monitoring, as well as exchanging experiences on additional aspects in relation to socio-economic and other impacts, as needed and relevant.

collaboration with the PMU, and the M&E Specialist PMU will be responsible to ensure coherence between the evaluation exercises and the **biennial outcome assessments** to be undertaken by the project team.. This is imperative to ensure the possibility for quantitative impact assessment as part of the Final Evaluation. The biennial outcome assessment that is prior to the interim evaluation exercise will be used in lieu of an additional interim impact survey.

The PMU M&E specialist will be responsible for convening, on a bi-monthly basis the **SURAGGWA MEL working group** in order to ensure coherence in data collection, provide capacity development and information sharing and exchange. The MEL working group is the platform through which CIU M&E specialists are supported to make necessary adaptations to indicators, are trained in relation to the monitoring and evaluation system, data collection and all other matters related to the SURAGGWA MEL System.

Finally, the PMU M&E Specialist will carry out bi-annual spot checks on country-level implementation through field missions for quality assurance purposes.

Preparation of reporting: The Regional M&E Specialist will coordinate the preparation of the **programme inception workshop** with the CIU M&E specialist for each country, ensuring coherence and programmatic approach across all 8 countries. On a bi-monthly basis, the PMU M&E specialist will convene the SURAGGWA MEL working group to track progress against activity and output monitoring through the MIS system, that will be established according to the detailed M&E plan.

On an annual basis, the Regional M&E Specialist will draft a **consolidated Annual Performance Report**, which will include not only progress against expected results, but also provide information on the ESFM and Gender Action Plan, as well as financial information. The consolidated Annual Performance Reportss will be submitted to GCF 60 days after the end of each calendar year, after approvals from National and Regional Steering Committees. The final annual performance report and the final evaluation report will serve as the final project report package.

A **biennial outcome assessment** methodology will be prepared by the Regional PMU M&E specialist, in consultation with CIU M&E specialists in order to ensure results reporting against specific output and outcome indicators, with a focus on: enabling environment, organizational capacities, individual capacities, adoption/uptake of technologies, beneficiary feedback, as well as qualitative NDVI assessment for ground-truthing of remote-sensing data and information related to land restoration activities.

Set-up, roll-out of Management information system: The M&E processes will be supported by the implementation of the remote-sensing technologies, under Components 1 and 3, and will leverage the use of KoboToolbox for data collection. This information will be systematically tracked through the implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard in synergy with the DSL-IP.

The Dashboard will allow for programmatic M&E information to be centralized and will be brought together with the establishment of databases centralized and harmonized in a joint and participatory manner across the SURAGGWA countries and partners. Like the tested DSL-IP framework, it will have four main sections for each country (project information, GCF core indicators, results framework, and financial tracking). The platform will be password protected and each M&E specialist will have access and control over their own section, contributing also to the overall platform.

The Dashboard will be implemented with the development of the necessary databases and reporting platform, with the use of Google Sheets and Google Looker Studio. And data collection from the field level will be undertaken with the use of KoboToolbox. In the preparatory phase of the project, consultations and trainings will be conducted to ensure a standardized data collection, processing, reporting, and review scheme.

Country-level

At country-level, the CIU M&E specialist will be responsible to ensure regular activity monitoring, updating of the SURAGGWA MEL system with all relevant information and indicators, and coordinating and/or producing the different reports to be transmitted to the PMU for validation and consolidation for GCF and Regional Steering Committee reporting. Furthermore, the CIU M&E specialist will be responsible for the training of enumerators in face-to-face and remote data collection tools, and providing quality assurance and backstopping for field-level monitoring throughout. The CIU M&E specialist will work in close collaboration with the Social Safeguards and Gender specialist to ensure that the M&E system integrates, as necessary and relevant gender and safeguards indicators and mechanisms.

Set-up, roll-out of data collection tools: The CIU M&E specialists., under the overall guidance and coordination of the PMU, will be responsible for the preparation of an **inception workshop** will be organized in each country in order to: a) orient project stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss any change in the overall context that might influence implementation; b) discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication lines; c) review the results framework and discussion, present in detail the Theory of Change of the project, reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities, and to finalize the M&E plans; d) review financial reporting requirements; and e) planning and scheduling of M&E meetings; and f) finalize the first year work plan. The project inception workshop will also provide the opportunity to provide training for the Gender Action Plan and Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework. The workshop will generate an **inception report** that will be presented and approved by FAO, and consolidated by the PMU in on overall programme inception report.

As part of the inception phase and an outcome of the inception workshops, the CIU M&E specialists will draft the questionnaire for the data collection app. At this stage, the team will define the minimum information that must be collected by the field-level agents for an effective tracking of the activities. Each intervention will be linked to a location, an indicator in the results framework, and the associated costs. This information will then be managed and aggregated at the country level with Google Looker Studio by the M&E specialist.

Implementation of M&E plan: As part of the trainings, each field agent will be capacitated on the use of KoboToolbox to accurately collect project data. KoboToolbox is chosen because of its popularity, flexibility of questionnaire, and capacity to geo-reference the activities. With this app, it is possible to geo-reference (1) the monitoring of restoration sites as linked to Component 1 activities, and (2) the monitoring of household and market level critical socio-economic indicators as linked to both Component 1 and Component 2 activities. During or at the end of each field mission, field agents should be able to automatically upload site-level information on project activities.

In addition, during the foreseen participatory and community-based identification of restoration sites and NTFP species (include here component 1 and component 2 activities in relation to this) the restoration

management committees (or local “animators” in areas with limited accessibility) will be taught how to use KoboToolbox to plan and report on restoration and NTFP value chain development activities and outcomes at the site, community, and household levels.

These data collection modules will communicate in real-time to the CIU on activity progress, achievements and feedback from the household and community level and will be included into the SURAGGWA Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Dashboard on a 3-monthly basis. The use of Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard and KoboToolbox also means transparency and accountability in the project implementation.

As part of regular quality assurance for data collection, the CIU M&E specialist will **undertake quarterly monitoring missions** in the field, to assure ground-truthing of remote-sensing data as well as additional information collected remotely through KoboToolBox, and to ensure community engagement and feedback from participating households on the project.

Preparation of Reporting: After the inception phase, the programme will run, a country-level annual work plan and budgeting workshop in each country, whereby the National Steering Committee will review the results, activity and financial progress from the previous year and approve the work plan and budget for the upcoming year and transmit these to the PMU for consolidation and review by the Regional Steering Committee, under the overall supervision, coordination and guidance of the PMU M&E Specialist and thematic leaders.

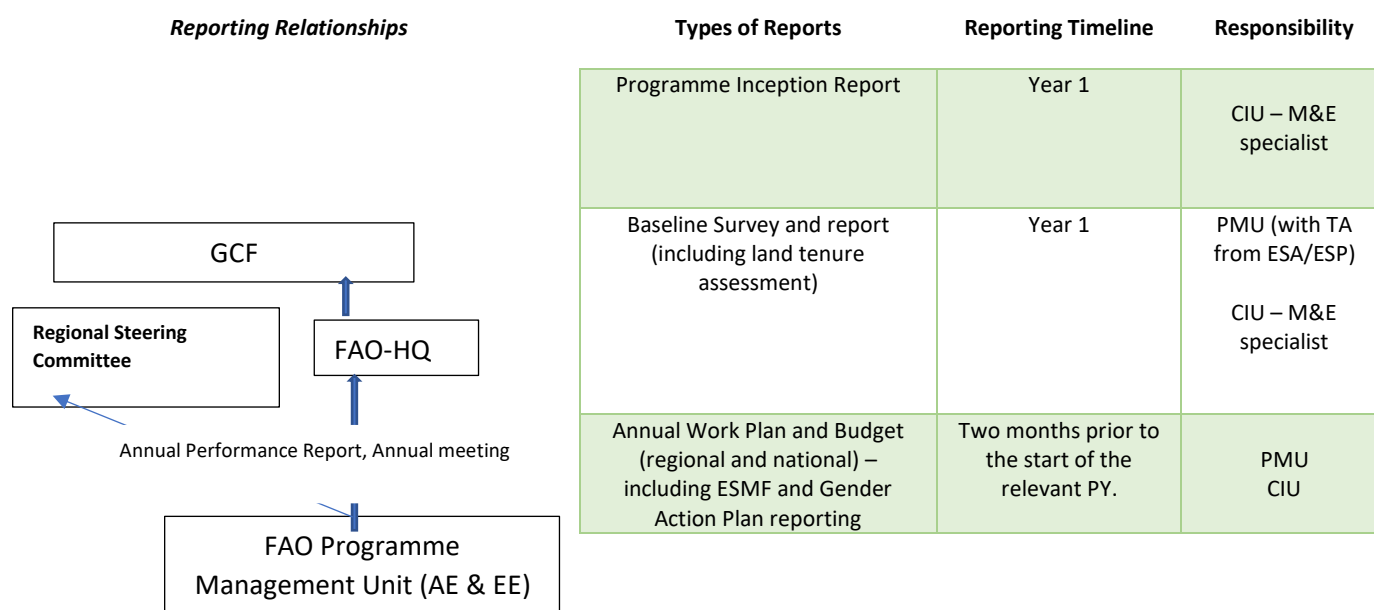
The National Restoration Monitoring specialists in the CIU and PMU will provide inputs to **the Annual Performance Report** for each year of implementation. The PMU M&E specialist, National Coordinators and CIU M&E specialists will ensure that the indicators in the results framework are monitored annually through the tools identified and protocols established in support of this task at the inception phase.

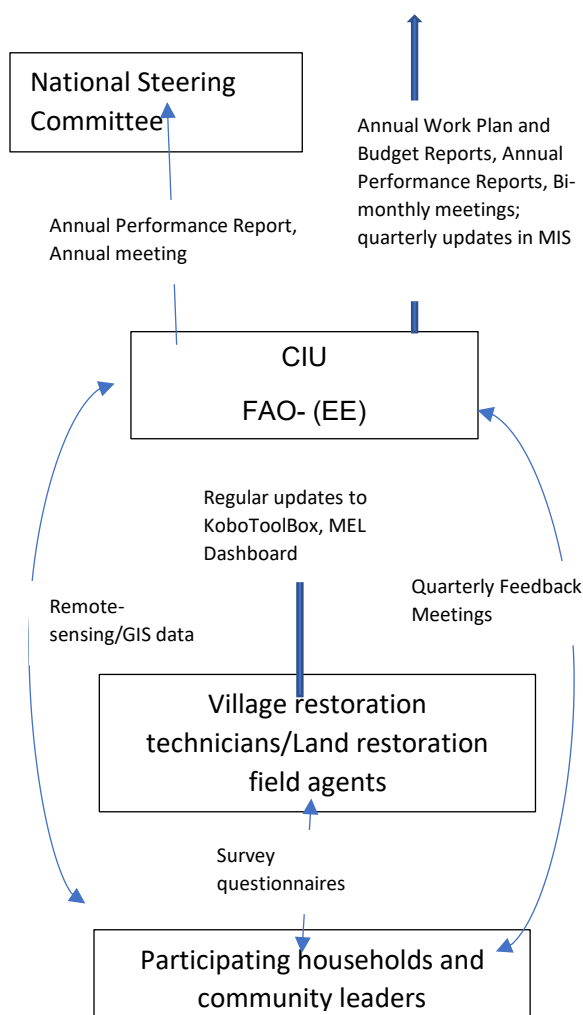
The CIU M&E specialists will, in coordination with the Regional PMU, ensure the methodology and indicators of the **Biennial Outcome Assessment** is coherent and builds upon the IRMF and associated indicators and data collection tools, and that the data collected and methodology utilized will serve the Knowledge Management activities as laid out under Output 3.4 of the programme activities, as well as the independent Mid-Term and Final Evaluations to be carried out by FAO’s Office of Evaluation (OED).

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame
Inception Workshop	PMU/CIU	Within one month after start-up
Project Inception Report	CIU with technical assistance from PMU	One month after start-up (to be submitted to the GCF within 6 month of effective date)
Annual Performance Reports (APR)	PMU/CIU	60 days after the end of the calendar year (annual)
Baseline Survey	PMU/CIU	6 months after start-up
Technical reports	Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate.	As appropriate
Biennial Outcome Assessment	PMU/CIU	Every two years

Interim Evaluation	FAO Office of Evaluation, in consultation with FAO BH, PMU, OCB and other partners	To be submitted to GCF within 6 months and 5 years from effective date
Final Impact Survey and Assessment	PMU/CIU with TA from ESA/ESP on survey and sampling design, questionnaire preparation and analysis	1 year after end of restoration activities in sampled country
Final Evaluation	FAO Office of Evaluation, in consultation with FAO BH, PMU, OCB and other partners	To be submitted to GCF within 6 months from Completion date
Regional Ecological Restoration and M&E specialist	Full-time expert as part of the PMU	1 month after project start up
Gender and safeguards officer	PMU/CIU	During inception and for set-up of system, to be handed over to the national-level safeguards experts, under coordination of the Regional Ecological Restoration and M&E specialist
M&E Dashboard Implemented and regularly updated (quarterly activity progress reporting)	PMU	At inception, and updated every 3 months
MEL Working Group Meetings	PMU	Every 2 months
Field-level Monitoring (CIU)	CIU	Every 3 months
Field-level Monitoring (PMU)	PMU	Biannual

B. SURAGGWA M&E Reporting Matrix and Data Flow





3-monthly statistical reports on physical and financial progress, including updates on core and output indicators as relevant (from SURAGGWA MEL Dashboard)	At the end of the first week of the relevant month.	CIU – M&E specialist EEs and FAO, Service providers and contractors.
Technical Reports	On a periodic basis and as relevant as per activities being implemented	Technical Assistance PMU Component Leads
Annual Performance Reports, including ESMF and Gender Action plan reporting	Two months after the end of the relevant PY.	PMU- M&E Unit
Biennial Outcome Assessment	Every two years	PMU - CIU
Interim Evaluation (including results from most recent biennial outcome assessment)	Year 5	FAO Office of Evaluation (to integrate interim survey results)
Final Impact Survey and Assessment	1 year after completion of restoration activities	PMU-CIU with OED ESA/ESP
Final Evaluation (including results from final survey/impact assessment)	To be submitted to GCF within 9 months after project completion.	FAO Office of Evaluation
Draft Completion Report	Two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation to BH and LTO. To be submitted to GCF within 6 month from completion date.	PMU

C. Reporting

Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Programme inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB); (iii) Annual Performance Reports (APRs); (iv) Baseline Survey (iv) Technical Reports; (v) Biennial Outcome Assessment; (vi) Terminal Report.

Inception Report. The CIU will prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with the PMU, the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), Budget Holder (BH) and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshops, to be held at national-level, and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include: (i) a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners; (ii) progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities, and (iii) an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWPB and a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception

report will be circulated to the country-level Steering Committee for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up. The report should be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GCF Coordination Unit and uploaded in Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS) by the BH. The PMU will consolidate all country project inception workshop reports and produce one overall report for the Programme.

Baseline survey and report: The PMU will prepare an initial baseline survey, that will be informed through the development of an impact assessment methodology through technical assistance from ESA, ESP and OED, including the definition of the counterfactual, in order to allow for a quantitative impact assessment as part of the final evaluation. The baseline survey will also collect information relevant to the updating of outcome and output indicators, as well as on land tenure, and it will be geo-referenced.

Regular carbon sequestration reporting will be undertaken as part of the Annual Performance Reportss.

This will be undertaken by the PMU and CIU M&E staff in close collaboration with the National Agencies for the Great Green Wall, and with other ecological monitoring organizations in selected countries (such as the Centre de Suivi Ecologique in Senegal, and Centre de Suivi Ecologique et Environnementale in Niger). The ecological monitoring will build synergies with relevant activities of land restoration maintenance and verification under Component 1 as well as data and information systems and methodologies under Component 3. The M&E specialists at Regional and Country levels will be responsible will have a background in M&E, with specific experience in Monitoring and Evaluation as well as ecological restoration and the requisite MRV skills. FAO has already collected and established biophysical baselines at the country level and for GGW restorable lands (see EarthMap.org) and trained country experts in the use of these tools. The information will continue to be an open source available to interested public, private and civil society actors, and will help to assess progress, coordinate sustainable development and climate action efforts in the region using a climate-based GIS. Baselines will be updated and enhanced through the different FAO OpenForis tools, in particular through the development of user-friendly geospatial modules to enable mapping indicators, using cloud computing, remote sensing and machine learning, integrating socio-economic and biophysical information. The System for Earth Observation, data access, processing and analysis for land monitoring (SEPAL) modules will enable generating up-to-date wall-to-wall information from collected sample data using Collect Earth and for monitoring specific indicators and remote sensing indices, land suitability, and zoning in support of GGW activities, with linkages to ABC Map and the IPCC GHG software. The resulting wall-to-wall information will be further complemented with socio-economic and biophysical field data collection during the soil carbon analysis monitoring activities and Biennial Outcome Surveys. It will entail the use of a drones and a data collection software package (KoboToolBox) that combines (1) geo-referenced monitoring of restoration sites as linked to Component 1 activities and (2) household and market level monitoring of critical socio-economic indicators as linked to both Component 1 and Component 2 activities which will also be geo-tagged.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). The draft of the first AWPB will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop (IW) inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will submit a final draft AWPB within two weeks of the IW to the BH. For subsequent AWPB, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. Once comments have been incorporated, the BH will circulate the AWPB to the LTO and the GCF Coordination Unit for comments/clearance prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWPB will be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators so that the project's

work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWPB will also include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into quarterly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year will also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWPB will be approved by the Regional and National Steering Committees and uploaded on the FPMIS by the BH.

Annual Progress Reports (APPR): APRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of activity monitoring, and output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework, including financial progress through the CIUs in each country. The purpose of the APR is to highlight progress, identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The APPR will also reflect progress on results achieved, as well as providing a financial report, including tracking progress on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document. The APPR will be submitted to the BH and LTO for comments and clearance. The BH will upload the PPR on the FPMIS.

Biennial Outcome Assessment: Independent consultants or research institutions will be contracted by the Regional PMU to undertake an outcome survey every two years in order to track progress and identify attribution in relation to activities, outputs and outcomes as per the SURAGGWA IRMF. In particular, the biennial outcome assessment will focus on identifying progress in relation to outcome-level and co-benefit indicators, identifying as much as possible contribution of project activities and outputs to outcome indicators and results as per IRMF. The Biennial Outcome Assessment will build upon the data and information in the SURAGGWA MEL System, and will be geo-referenced. The Biennial Outcome Assessments will identify critical outcome indicators for closer monitoring and will draw upon the Baseline survey and report and will also inform the interim review and final impact assessments and evaluation. It will include a capacity development module⁶ to track adoption and uptake of trainings, practices and knowledge across all components of the project (and including the scorecard methodology for the enabling environment, organisations and at individual level), as well as a qualitative NDVI assessment and beneficiary feedback survey.

Technical Reports: Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants (partner organizations under LOAs) as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The technical reports should have emphasis on the respective country project core themes as much as possible. The drafts of any technical reports will be submitted by the CIU to the BH who will share it with the LTO. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of the report. The BH will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Regional and National Steering Committees as appropriate.

Completion Report: Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PMU will submit to the BH and LTO a draft Completion Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds

⁶ KAP Surveys and tools to be utilized

were utilized. The Completion Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

D. Evaluation Process

To provide an independent external assessment on the progress of the project and the achievement of its objectives, and in line with the AMA signed with the GCF, two independent project evaluations will be conducted - interim and final evaluations. The interim and final evaluations will be overseen by the Office of Evaluation.

The evaluations will be conducted using both quantitative and qualitative data, collected through the M&E system through annual reporting and biennial outcome assessments, as well as through specific data collection activities at baseline, interim and final phases. The interim evaluation will have a formative focus and assess progress towards and likelihood of achievement of outcomes and impacts. It will be instrumental in contributing – through operational and strategic recommendations – to improving implementation, setting out any necessary corrective measures for the remaining period of the project in order to achieve the results.

The final evaluation will assess the programme's overall impact, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, replicability and lessons learned. The evaluation should also assess the extent to which the intervention has contributed to the Fund's higher-level goal of achieving a paradigm shift in adaptation and mitigation to climate change in the 8 Sahelian Countries through enhanced resilience through diversified livelihood options, increased carbon sequestration in formerly degraded lands. The evaluation will draw on mixed-methods, using quantitative approaches and qualitative methods (e.g. participatory appraisal) in combination with counterfactual analysis, with the help of reliable control group data from the project's baseline and end line surveys, in collaboration with technical assistance from ESA and ESP to ensure outcome results are well measured, and quantitative impact measurements and attribution can be identified. In particular, this will be achieved through the impact evaluation activities as part of the overall evaluation process, which will include data collection at baseline, interim and final stages. In addition to primary data collected by participating stakeholders and the evaluators and secondary national data, both interim and final evaluations will draw on the monitoring reports and activities prepared by project staff. Attention will also focus on assessing how the project developed capacities within the three dimensions: enabling environment, organizations and individuals. This will be important to ensure the sustainability, scalability and replicability of the project over time.

The interim evaluation will be undertaken when delivery reaches 50% of the initial total budget or mid-point of scheduled project duration. The independent Final Evaluation will be launched within twelve months prior to the actual completion date (NTE) of the project.