

Information Note on the Strategic Investment Program for Sustainable Land Management in SSA (SIP)

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A common goal is shared by NEPAD's CAADP and Environment Action Plan, the implementation action plans of the African Regional Economic Communities and the UNCCD: to address land degradation and scale up the area of African land under sustainable management. This shared goal is part of a collective response to repeated calls for action by African stakeholders over the past decade to support their efforts to more fully confront the challenge that land degradation poses to the environment and African sustainable development. Whether human or naturally induced, land degradation threatens to destabilize ecosystem function, hindering the continent's vision of building a more solid and sustainable foundation for natural resource management that secures regional and global environmental assets, livelihoods, food security, and economic growth. This perspective is reinforced in MDGs 1 and 7, as well as in the priority recommendations of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA).

Investments to improve land management have demonstrated some success in delivering on the vision above on a limited scale in settings throughout sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), by emphasizing activities that protect or stabilize ecosystems and therefore the productivity of croplands, grasslands, and woodlands.

However, land management interventions to date have not been pursued at a large enough scale in SSA to yield significant impact. One of the key lessons from previous efforts to tackle the land management agenda in SSA has been that most approaches have had limited impact due to barriers and bottlenecks in the enabling environment: (i) knowledge and technological; (ii) institutional and governance; and (iii) economic and financial. Furthermore, climate change impacts are expected to undermine rural production systems throughout Africa, and this dimension has not yet been reflected well enough in production and non-production sectors.

The GEF Strategic Investment Program for SLM in SSA (SIP) is a comprehensive business model designed to confront these barriers by supporting the development of a strategic and harmonized multi-agency portfolio of sequenced investment support packages that can catalyze specific country-specific SLM operations in SSA. It includes regional knowledge transfer, targeted analytical work, and common M&E approaches -- all linked to African-driven decision making and policy dialogue.

The SIP is a strategic partnership which aims to accomplish this by efficiently using the GEF Instrument on an incremental cost basis to strengthen donor alignment, harmonize land management-related policy dialogue, strengthen cross-fertilization and investment quality, maximize impact per dollar invested, and support engagement over a longer timeframe while reinforcing stronger African leadership. These are necessary conditions for donors and sub-Saharan stakeholders at all levels to scale up SLM.

The expected results of the SIP include significant improvements in the enabling environment that needs to drive SLM scale up, allowing SSA countries to better secure regional and global environmental assets and natural resource-based livelihoods by

preventing and reducing the impact of land degradation on ecosystem services in priority areas. In particular, the SIP supports sub-Saharan beneficiaries in their efforts to design and manage programs of activities that advance SLM mainstreaming, improve governance for SLM, and catalyze investments.

The SIP introduces innovations to facilitate long-term SSA engagement in SLM and alignment of efforts, including:

- i. A comprehensive yet flexible investment planning tool¹ for countries to prioritize diagnostics and investments while aligning stakeholders and donors around these priorities, and
- ii. A Composite Index for SLM Enabling Environment designed to measure political commitment and the relative strength of the enabling environment. It is made up of five components: political support, policy formulation (such as tenure, decentralization, multisectoral planning), organizational structure, program resources (such as public expenditure trends), evaluation, research and knowledge management; and legal and regulatory aspects.
- iii. Other indices and assessment tools targeting partnership building and function, knowledge sharing, and SLM advocacy.

The GEF is being approached to play an important role as a catalytic financial mechanism for the implementation of the UNCCD and the renewed commitment by the international community to substantially increase financial, policy and institutional support to Africa. The SIP Program Brief will be delivered to GEF Council in December 2006, after a comprehensive consultation process led by NEPAD with the close involvement of all GEF implementing and executing agencies active in combating land degradation in Africa (WB, UNDP, UNEP, AfDB, IFAD). The SIP will provide a strong operational umbrella in support of UNCCD and African led processes on SLM and be combined with an envelope of dedicated funds. This package will facilitate the alignment of donor inputs over the medium to long-term and help sustain implementation. It will also facilitate harmonization of policies and institutions in support of combating land degradation. In addition to direct social, economic, and environmental benefits accruing from addressing the land degradation challenge, additional global benefits are also expected to accrue in other GEF focal areas: biodiversity and international waters, and climate change.

With GEF support provided under a well articulated strategic partnership, the chances for effectively mainstreaming SLM throughout SSA improve dramatically, amplifying the impacts of GEF resources. This in turn would raise the prospect for SSA landscapes, ecosystems, and farms to be managed in an economically and ecologically sustainable manner in the long-term, in the context of an integrated ecosystem approach. SIP supported investments will provide models and actions to be considered by decision makers for up-scaling throughout SSA.

¹ Country SLM Investment Framework (CSIF)

The Program Brief will provide a summary of an indicative GEF co-financed program of actions, and a coherent GEF programmatic approach to SLM in SSA.

The Program Brief will lay out the inter-agency GEF Strategic Partnership, modeled upon existing experience, including the CPPs, and existing strategic partnerships, including the ADB's China SLM program, the WB-GEF Strategic Partnerships and Investment Funds (such as the Black Sea Danube partnership or the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries in Sub-Saharan Africa) but tuned to the SSA context. At Council submission stage, the Brief is expected to provide a listing of potential operations, generated by major SSA stakeholders, which will illustrate the strategic direction of the SIP during the first phase.

The role of GEF is important as a catalytic resource to finance incremental costs associated with SLM, defined by GEF in relation to land degradation as “additional costs related to an integrated ecosystem approach to land management.” The integrated approach is especially productive, since SLM is based on improved management of water, conservation of biodiversity, storage of carbon, and/or adapting vulnerable production systems to climate change.

Leveraging Ratios.

The SIP will aim to leverage GEF funds against other project financing sources at a target overall program ratio of 1 (GEF) to 3 (other sources). Co-financing may be secured from a combination of national sources, IFIs, and from other donors and partners. The minimum leveraging ratio for individual projects has been established as 1 (GEF) to 1 (other) and would only be allowed in very exceptional cases. Such low-leverage projects would be offset by other investments, where the proportion of GEF incremental cost financing would be expected to be significantly lower.

Country Pilot Programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Namibia.

The CPPs are emerging pilot SLM country partnerships that will both benefit from and contribute to the SIP. The SIP will encourage financing partners to channel more support to existing CPP countries. Because the SIP has a larger scope than the limited number of individual country-based CPPs, at country level, the SIP will help replicate elements of the CPP concept, thus helping to scale up policy, institutional, and financing momentum beyond the GEF family. Moreover, the SIP's regional approach will contribute to predictable longer term support beyond the GEF envelop earmarked to initiate a CPP, and will help further bring together the IAs and EAs to mutually build and share experience and align investments toward a common vision for SLM throughout SSA.

At the final SIP preparation workshop led by NEPAD, the three African CPP countries expressed plans to engage within the SIP framework early in its first phase, within their respective CPP Agency partnerships, building on their established approaches, mechanisms and experiences. These countries noted that for countries already engaged in a CPP, the SIP specifically addresses pragmatic and efficient approaches of building

upon the progress achieved, of collaboration, synergy and continuity, as well as value addition, including:

- Transboundary and subregional initiatives,
- Sharing of good practice between countries and subregions, and supporting multi-country targeted research
- Enhanced capacity strengthening of multi-state organizations,
- Harmonizing key indicators and monitoring approaches across the region, and analyzing and disseminating information,
- Diversified and increased investment into SLM.

2. The CHALLENGE FACED by SSA

2.1 Problem

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment defines land degradation as a reduction in the capacity of the land to perform ecosystem functions and services and identifies sub-Saharan Africa as being particularly susceptible.

Land degradation in SSA is a critical environmental, economic, and social threat that must be addressed for countries to realize sustainable development goals, while securing critical global commons. As a profoundly intertwined poverty-environment challenge, the costs of land degradation can be high and the root causes diverse. Where land degradation continues unchecked, ecosystem sustainability is directly compromised while the productive capacity of land resources is significantly reduced. This in turn directly impacts livelihoods and incomes of rural populations generating a strong negative feedback loop.

At least 485 million Africans are affected by land degradation,² making this threat one of the continent's urgent environmental and development issues with significant costs. According to some estimates, which are contentious (as are all attempts to economically value land degradation), Africa is burdened with a \$9.3 billion annual cost of desertification.³ Over 3% of agricultural GDP is lost annually to soil and nutrient loss in SSA, while two-thirds of arable African land has already suffered degradation. In 2025, 25 countries are projected to face water scarcity, in turn hindering agricultural intensification efforts. Although Africa hosts only 17% of the world's forests, the continent accounts for over half of global deforestation.⁴ While the cumulative loss of crop productivity from land degradation worldwide between 1945 and 1990 has been estimated at 5 percent, as much as 6.2 percent of productivity has been lost in SSA.⁵

² Reich et al 2001. Includes northern Africa.

³ Dregne 1991. Includes northern Africa.

⁴ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Desertification Synthesis Report (Draft for Review, 11 Nov 2004). The greatest net reduction of forest area between 1990 and 2000 occurred in SSA and was estimated at a loss of approximately 0.8% of the forest area per year. Loss of tropical dry forest in east and southern Africa, predominately in dryland regions, accounted for the majority of this decline.

⁵ To put this in perspective, a 2% rise in annual agricultural exports from Africa would equal five times the continent's share of aid and debt relief (according to Oxfam), while losses to GDP from reduced agricultural productivity are estimated

Importantly, these scenarios were projected without taking into consideration the anticipated and widely recognized severe impact of climate change on African ecosystems.

Land-use patterns in the region are complex and multiple.⁶ The vast majority of cultivation and livestock is managed by smallholders, and nomadism is present in some areas. Other resources from the land are also widely used, including medicinal plants, raw materials for construction and crafts, bushmeat, and fuelwood. Together, they contribute up to 40 per cent of household incomes.⁷ With 59% of SSA's 717 million people directly dependent on the land for their livelihoods,⁸ and with a high level of rural poverty, investments in improved land management are being considered by SSA governments as critical elements of national development, poverty reduction strategies, and social stability. All of these aspects together reflect a very strong regard for land in SSA, but have driven competition for natural resources in the absence of effective mechanisms for managing trade-offs. These opportunities and emerging momentum for action can be sustained with catalytic support from the GEF.

Because of the urgency of these threats and their negative impact on sustainability at all levels, land degradation has become a significant element of the global environment agenda, as confirmed by GEF Council's adoption of OP15, GEF's role as a funding mechanism of UNCCD, and in the formulation of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7 and their later confirmation at the WSSD. Most recently, a central finding of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) from March 2005 was that the authors are "particularly alarmed by the evidence of strong linkages between the degradation of ecosystem services in drylands and poverty [globally but especially in Africa]," underlying the importance of engaging in a special effort for SSA.

2.2 Global significance

Because land degradation is recognized as a global threat that is particularly manifest in SSA, by a regional approach to investment enhances the ability for sub-Saharan stakeholders to catalyze the scale up of local actions that in aggregate will secure global environmental benefits.

There are two ways to frame land degradation threats to SSA and its global environmental significance.

First, there is the direct impact on each of the GEF focal areas:

at \$130 million per year in Ethiopia alone (Bojo and Cassells 1995: Land Degradation and Rehabilitation in Ethiopia: A Reassessment.)

⁶ Inappropriate agricultural, animal husbandry, and woodland management in SSA often results in land degradation (including desertification) and precipitates further natural resource degradation. Human-induced causes of land degradation may be exacerbated in many SSA countries by population growth, poorly managed intensification, weak policy and institutional environments, disincentives and perverse incentives (such as poor land tenure rights), high input cost (which limits the ability of farmers to maintain soil nutrient balances), and poorly developed marketing and infrastructure.

⁷ Ashley and LaFranchi 1997, Cavendish 1999.

⁸ FAOSTAT, 2004

- Erosion of biodiversity in production landscapes and non-cropped areas,
- Increased stress on transboundary aquifers, rivers, and lakes, and
- Release of carbon from forest, clearance and reduced capacity to absorb carbon due to loss of vegetation cover and soil capacity

Second, and perhaps more significantly, each of the impacts above can be more accurately presented in an integrated manner, in part because land degradation is defined by GEF as a reduction in the productive capacity of land, and by the MA as a reduction of the capacity of ecosystems to provide services. Both definitions revolve around a loss of ecosystem functions, and, in the GEF context, the global goods ecosystems provide. SSA ecosystems provide a continuum of services from local to global (ie, food production at local level to carbon storage and maintenance of genetic resources at global level), yet because a critical mass of people live directly off the land, there is a greater threat (and opportunity) presented by land degradation in SSA than in other regions.

For example, SSA has seen stagnation in cropland and rangeland productivity throughout the continent, in the face of expanding populations and demand for food, fuel, fiber, water, and other ecosystem services. Soil nutrient depletion is common in many SSA countries and often leads to inadequate vegetation cover and increased susceptibility of the land to erosion. Excessive rainfall runoff from poorly vegetated soils can result in floods and damage to urban and rural settlements, siltation of irrigation canals and hydroelectric reservoirs, and destruction of coral reefs. Wind erosion has local and global impacts; global and regional dust transport is currently being blamed for the transport of disease-causing bacteria and fungi that may be responsible for disease outbreaks in humans and livestock. Deforestation and other forms of agricultural extensification in SSA lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions from biomass burning, increased decomposition of soil organic matter, and reduced carbon sinks. Deforestation in SSA is equivalent to between 5% and 10% of total global carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.⁹ Integrated water resource management – an integral part of SLM - is needed to sustain land-use productivity and recharge aquifers, many of which are transboundary in SSA and being overdrawn. These examples highlight the critical importance of SLM as a significant cross-cutting theme in addressing land degradation with the many direct and indirect linkages and impacts it has on the components of the renewable natural resource base (i.e, ecosystem stability).

The particular environmental benefits that accrue from controlling land degradation in SSA range across (and beyond) the GEF focal areas and affect multiple scales. Some selected benefits at largely global level from SLM include the following *supporting and regulating services* from ecosystems – *most of which are in decline in SSA* according to the current literature.¹⁰ Together, these services provide increased food, fiber, and fuel production as well as freshwater supply and purification and other benefits at local to global scales:

⁹ Houghton, 2005 quoted in ODG - University of East Anglia, *Global Impacts of Land Degradation*, 2006

¹⁰ Please see the analytical work emerging from SIP preparatory funding which documents these trends.

- i. Primary production – the overall biological productivity of the land
- ii. Nutrient cycling – necessary for plants and animals to survive
- iii. Soil formation and retention – necessary for primary production and reduces water siltation.
- iv. Hydrological regulation – the natural water cycle whereby water infiltrates into the ground, is absorbed by plants and slowly released and respired.
- v. Carbon sequestration – the fixing of carbon in plants, animals and soils, helping to offset the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- vi. Habitat maintenance – allows maintenance of biodiversity, the genetic strength and savings account for life on earth, providing reduced risk from external shocks such as climate change and disease.

In addition, the benefits above can be further secured in instances by improved management of shared basins and aquifers, transboundary rangeland or watersheds, and by addressing bushfires and drought in border regions.

Without a special concerted, proactive and strategic response, land degradation is projected to continue to compromise Sub-Saharan ecosystem function, resilience, and interconnectivity, with corresponding specific impacts on the global environment. Land degradation drives terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity loss, reduces carbon storage functions of land cover and wetland sinks, compromises filtering functions affecting transboundary water resources, and hinders efforts to adapt land-use production systems to climate change. In no other continent are the threats to the land resource as great and the opportunities as available to shift to a more sustainable path.

2.3 Approaches to date have not taken SSA far enough

Recent calls for actions from SSA countries, along with key stakeholder consultations, have pointed to *two facts: 1) progress on the ground has fallen short of expectations, and 2) business as usual is unlikely to address the growing gap between ever increasing land degradation and efforts to address the problem.* The current approach is not likely to adequately address land degradation challenges across SSA. Diagnostic reviews and consultations jointly show a number of key interconnected reasons for the past shortcomings of investments designed to address land degradation:¹¹

- Inadequate long-term commitment, constituency and political will among governments and international partners,
- Inconsistent support for mainstreaming SLM, and lack of analytical underpinnings to support it;
- Lack of delivery mechanisms for scaling up SLM approaches, including known successful approaches,
- A project-specific, or ad hoc approach focused on symptoms rather than the root causes of land degradation,

¹¹ Ibid.

- Fragmented stakeholder cooperation and insufficient harmonization, including among donors,
- Isolated, fragmented, and still insufficient body of knowledge that does not yet fully align with and link to critical decision making processes, and
- Insufficient levels and efficacy of domestic and international financing, inefficiently targeted in comparison to the scope of the problem.
- Insufficient awareness and knowledge of land as an asset and potential source of income.

Taken together, these shortcomings constitute a series of increasingly recognized barriers and bottlenecks to SLM implementation and further scale-up.

Experience has also shown that trying to address these barriers in isolation cannot be cost effective or efficient. One way to go farther than is currently being done is to establish a long-term regional portfolio approach to investment. Such a portfolio would be keyed to phased progress reporting toward a shared vision for SLM, reinforced by partnership building at all levels.

3. DEVELOPMENT of the SIP

3.1 Preparatory Process

After a comprehensive process of consultations on thematic and design issues with a wide variety of African and international stakeholders, and all GEF IAs and EAs involved in land management in SSA, and with support from the TerrAfrica partnership, planning and preparatory activities are coming to a close, with the full Program Brief submission to GEF Council planned for December 2006. Below are some of the main milestones:

June 2005:	Concept Note approved by GEF CEO
October 2005:	After a year-and-a-half of consultations, the TerrAfrica partnership is launched at UNCCD COP7, with full support from the GEF Family with indication that there will be "significant GEF resources to support the SIP"
April 2006:	NEPAD holds regional SIP preparation workshop on draft elements of Program Brief, Dakar, Senegal
April - July 2006:	NEPAD holds SSA Technical Review Panel consultations
July 2006:	NEPAD holds second regional SIP preparation workshop, Midrand, South Africa to review and agree on final design elements

3.2 Main Activities of the Preparation Phase

Preparatory activities to date have focused on the preparation of an umbrella program that can support African driven investments throughout SSA. These activities have aimed to consolidate, reinforce, and promote a shared SLM vision through the Strategic Partnership process and have:

- Developed a basis for guiding decision making at regional, subregional, and country levels (ie, guidelines for diagnostics and investment development);
- Defined regional and country-level approaches for preparation of SIP operations by stakeholders;
- Designed the arrangements to ensure African leadership and cost effectiveness in developing and implementing SIP financed operations;
- Developed institutional coordination and program management systems;
- Developed the performance measurement and monitoring system at program level, to gauge SIP portfolio progress;
- Enhanced advocacy and raised awareness of the opportunities presented by a regional approach to programming, joint diagnostics, and knowledge transfer.

SIP preparation has been guided by an inter-agency Steering Committee, composed of NEPAD, the GEF Secretariat and all GEF IAs and EAs financing SLM in SSA.

4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

4.1 Model

The SIP is modeled upon experience and guidance pioneered by several Strategic Partnerships, including the Black Sea-Danube Partnership Investment Fund, the SSA Fisheries Partnership, and other recent GEF programmatic efforts such as the China Partnership to address land degradation. It is also informed by the emerging experience from the CPPs. In support of the implementation of the shared vision in TerrAfrica, the *SIP will amplify the catalytic and strategic role of the GEF and improve investment efficiency and effectiveness.* During its preparation phase, the SIP developed strategies and identified priority directions and criteria for investments to address land degradation in SSA. SLM has not yet figured prominently in national public investment priorities and where mainstreamed into PRSPs, the investments do not always follow.

IA and EA responsibilities and roles

All Implementing and Executing Agencies involved in the SIP will carry out the following:

- i. Coordinate and manage development of operations, approval, implementation and evaluation processes, in accordance with the rules of procedure of GEF and the agency involved,
- ii. Facilitate assistance to recipients for preparation of proposals, and
- iii. Provide and help secure co-financing support in line with the overall SIP's targeted leveraging ratio of 1:3.

Individual agencies will focus on specific niches of SIP implementation based on their comparative advantage.

4.2 SIP objectives

The vision, or overall 12-year goal, of the SIP is to support sub-Saharan countries in improving natural resource-based livelihoods by preventing and reversing land degradation. As already stated above, this directly contributes to sub-Saharan stakeholders' achieving the Millennium Development Goals on hunger and environment, as well as to UNCCD priorities expressed in national and subregional planning documents, CAADP goals on scaling up SLM, and NEPAD EAP program area 1 on land degradation. This support emphasizes the development of increasingly programmatic approaches that include greater harmonization, cooperation, and alignment within and across countries, sectors, and donors.

The SIP advances toward this vision by supporting sub-Saharan efforts to design and manage programs of activities with the objective of advancing SLM mainstreaming, improving governance for SLM, and catalyzing investments that: i) address weaknesses in the enabling environment that are key for SLM scale up such as land tenure, multisectoral planning at all levels, and public expenditure trends, ii) apply practices on the ground that secure ecosystem services of croplands, rangelands, and woodlands, and iii) cost effectively scale up the area of land under sustainable management in country-defined priority areas.

During phase I, from 2007 – 2010, the SIP pursues this objective by establishing and promoting an umbrella framework for countries to develop SLM programs, reinforced by a package of investments that are sequenced and share key common reporting and evaluation requirements. Phase I will stand by itself, but subsequent phases will see vertical and horizontal expansion of the umbrella, as the depth and breadth of existing SLM programs will grow and more countries engage in SLM programs calibrated to their unique contexts.

The global environmental objective is to prevent and reduce the impact of land degradation on ecosystem services in SIP investment areas. The SIP secures global environmental benefits from land degradation investments two ways: i) by helping secure ecosystem function, and therefore the services upon which human life depends at global and local levels, and ii) by addressing the incremental cost of transboundary and multi-country interventions to improve management of shared land and water resources.

The four Strategic Objectives¹² of OP15 under GEF4 are directly addressed by the SIP, and are built in to the design of the program and the country-level investment frameworks

¹² The four emerging strategic objectives under GEF-4 that are directly addressed by SIP are: (1) foster system-wide change and remove the policy, institutional, technical, capacity, and financial barriers to SLM; (2) demonstrate and up-scale successful SLM practices for the control and prevention of desertification and deforestation; (3) generate and disseminate knowledge addressing current and emergent issues in SLM; and (4) cross focal area synergies and integrated ecosystem approaches to SLM.

that feed into the program level. The four corresponding SIP results that contribute to the overall long-term of the SIP and to the OP15 Strategic Objectives are:

Intermediate Result 1 (corresponds to LD Focal Area SOs 2 and 4)

- SLM applications on the ground are scaled up in country-defined priority agro-ecological zones.

Intermediate Result 2 (corresponds to LD Focal Area SO 1)

- Effective and inclusive dialogue and advocacy on SLM strategic priorities, enabling conditions and delivery mechanisms established and ongoing.

Intermediate Result 3 (corresponds to LD Focal Area SO 1)

- Commercial and advisory services for SLM are strengthened and readily available to land users.

Intermediate Result 4 (corresponds to LD Focal Area SO 3)

- Targeted knowledge generated and disseminated and monitoring established and strengthened at all levels.

Focal area overlap exists with selected strategic priorities of Operational Programs 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 13 as well as the new fund for adaptation to climate change (SPA). A growing awareness of the need to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change has highlighted the challenge of making rural development efforts climate resilient, and ensuring the health of ecosystems as a means of protecting against the adverse affects of climate change

4.3 SIP added value

The SIP approach brings added value while it drives a shift away from business as usual:

- ✓ Secures a predictable funding umbrella for SSA countries and donors to engage in SLM programming over the long term, maximize impact per dollar, mainstream SLM into policy, and sequence investments
- ✓ Strategic versus individual project-by-project approach
- ✓ Greater strategic coherence and cost-effectiveness by strategically fitting GEF into other funding mechanisms
- ✓ Builds on CPPs and other programmatic approaches in play
- ✓ Greater importance placed on African leadership on SLM, mainstreaming, sharing best practices and peer review processes at all levels (NEPAD principles)
- ✓ Emphasis is on portfolio-level results, common success indicators, and aligned M&E reporting
- ✓ Strong focus on enabling environment (policy, incentives, governance)
- ✓ Allows donors and country stakeholders to operationally align around a common vision in line with the TerrAfrica approach
- ✓ Reduced transaction costs to SSA stakeholders and donors alike, allowing increased SLM uptake
- ✓ Increased advocacy and awareness at senior decision making levels

4.4 SIP regional portfolio of operations

The SIP will fund operations that support countries in implementing a suite of country-prioritized actions that promote robust incentive systems from farm up to basin level, integrate and harmonize SLM across sectoral decision making processes, improve in-country and transboundary coordination on land, promote knowledge generation and transfer to decision makers, and encourage countries to pursue programmatic approaches to SLM investment that are robust and climate-proof. Such a coordinated effort requires a sequenced, prioritized portfolio of country level investments, strengthened by regional benchmarking and monitoring. This approach to SLM scale-up is consistent with and supported by the TerrAfrica partnership, its Business Planning Framework, and Work Program.¹³

Operations under the regional SIP umbrella will respond to existing sub-Saharan priorities at national and regional levels. Individual country level operations will be selective and developed in the context of the Country SLM Investment Framework (CSIF) that will establish a programmatic basis at country level for investment development with enhanced sectoral and donor alignment around a country-defined operational roadmap. This approach to operation development adds value by improving the quality, targeting, and consistency of land management operations; lowering transaction costs; leveraging GEF grant financing more catalytically, efficiently, and strategically; allowing more comparable and accurate reporting among operations (not only GEF financed operations), and lastly by engaging with a critical mass of national stakeholders on a long-term SLM agenda.

In addition to the CSIF, the SIP will provide additional tools to sub-Saharan countries for scaling up and mainstreaming SLM investment, building on and implementing existing SLM related activities and strategies already present in the country, including PRSP and sectoral strategy processes, CAADP roundtables, RECs' implementation action plans, the NEPAD Environment Action Plan process, as well as UNCCD Subregional and National Action Plans.

Monitoring and performance indicators are particularly important features of the SIP, at two distinct levels:

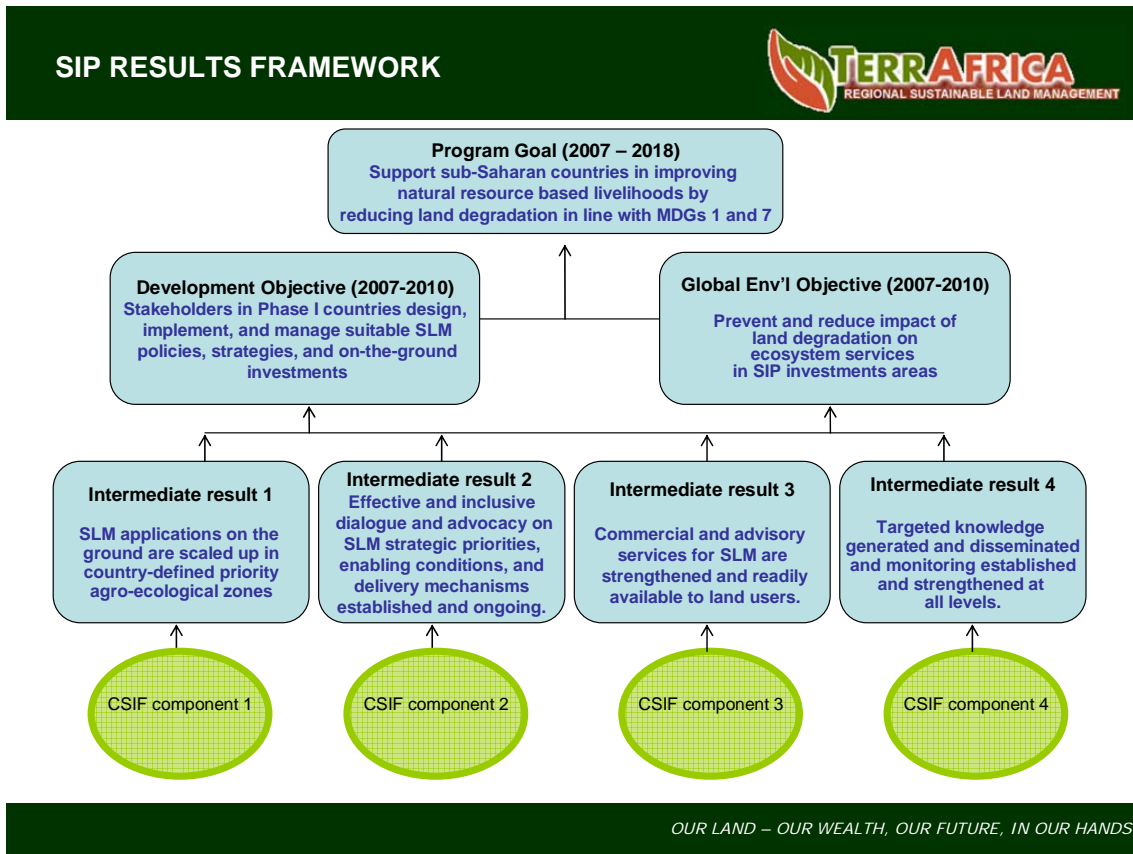
¹³ After nearly two years of consultations and development, the TerrAfrica platform was launched simultaneously at the UNCCD COP7 and CAADP retreat in October 2005 as a global partnership to advocate for SLM and drive more efficient and higher quality investment to SSA efforts to scale up successful interventions. The TerrAfrica Business Planning Framework is supported by a broad partnership, recognizing that no institution acting alone could hope to achieve SLM scale up, while by acting together, significant gains could be made in efficiency, quality, and scale. This vision translates into activities that strengthen coalitions, promote knowledge transfer, support SLM mainstreaming, and provide direction via a common agenda.

(i) at the overall regional program level (ie, at Strategic Partnership level), where an overall framework of indicators is established for monitoring against defined programmatic targets;

(ii) at the operations level, where a detailed set of catalytic impact indicators and qualitative and quantitative measures of actual progress towards results, consistent with the general framework, are established and monitored. Each operation under the SIP will instead present in detail the specific set of performance indicators that will be applied to monitor the performance of the sub-project and the impacts achieved. Impact to be achieved by SIP operations will be measured based on data collected as part of the monitoring effort by each operation, reinforced by modeling and projections as needed. This data will be aggregated at program level.

For more, please see Annex 1, which presents a summary of the draft SIP results framework.

Annex 1: Summary of SIP Results Framework



Development Objective (2007-2010)
Stakeholders in Phase I countries design, implement, and manage suitable SLM policies, strategies, and on-the-ground investments

Key indicators for progress toward this objective:

- *Trigger 1:* Minimum 10% increase in score on Composite Index for SLM Enabling Environment (see annex)
- *Trigger 2:* 80% of Phase 1 investments leveraged at minimum 1:3 ratio by end of Phase I
- % increased productivity in SIP investment areas by end of Phase I, reported by cropland, rangeland, and woodlands

Global Environmental Objective (2007-2010)
Prevent and reduce impact of land degradation on ecosystem services in SIP investments areas

Key indicators for progress toward this objective:

- % change in soil carbon content in investment areas
- % change in biological productivity (vegetation cover enhanced with rainfall use efficiency) by end of Phase I

SIP RESULTS FRAMEWORK



Intermediate result 1

SLM applications on the ground are scaled up in country-defined priority agro-ecological zones

Select indicators

% change in SLM applications adopted by land users in investment areas

Intermediate result 2

Effective and inclusive dialogue and advocacy on SLM strategic priorities, enabling conditions, and delivery mechanisms established and ongoing.

Select indicators

At least X new or existing national coalitions and one subregional or transboundary SLM coalition established or strengthened

Intermediate result 3

Commercial and advisory services for SLM are strengthened and readily available to land users.

Select indicators

X# persons receiving SLM services (from extensionists, commercial or NGO providers) in targeted communities compared to baseline

Intermediate result 4

Targeted knowledge generated and disseminated and monitoring established and strengthened at all levels.

Select indicators

All SIP projects have established M&E and learning systems within second year of operation and are reporting on programmatic indicators

OUR LAND – OUR WEALTH, OUR FUTURE, IN OUR HANDS